



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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October 1, 2002

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: James A. Noyes
Director of Public Works

PILOT AUTOMATED RED LIGHT PHOTO ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM STATE OF CALIFORNIA AUDIT

On July 23, 2002, the State of California completed an audit of the red light camera enforcement programs of seven agencies throughout the State, including the County's Pilot Automated Red Light Photo Enforcement Program (Program). The audit was conducted at the request of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee which required the Bureau of State Audits to review the implementation, application, and efficacy of the use of red light cameras.

Background

Our three-year Program began in July 1999 and expired on July 28, 2002. As a result of the Program's effectiveness in reducing the number of accidents caused by red light running violations, on July 9, 2002, your Board extended the Program for an additional 12-month period with provisions to incorporate, as necessary, any changes as a result of the State audit to new vendor contracts and the agreement with the California Highway Patrol (CHP). The following intersections are currently included in the Program.

Supervisory District	Area	Intersection
1	Rowland Heights	Colima Road at Batson Avenue
1	East Los Angeles	Whittier Boulevard at Atlantic Boulevard
3	Los Angeles	Wilshire Boulevard at Sepulveda Boulevard
4	Hacienda Heights	Hacienda Boulevard at La Monde Street
5	Glendora	Arrow Highway at Glendora Avenue

Public Works administers and coordinates the Program with the current red light photo equipment vendor, Affiliated Computer Services, Inc. (ACS); the CHP, which provides the enforcement and citation issuance; the Chief Administrative Office; and the affected courts.

Audit Findings and County Actions

In general, the State Audit found that the audited photo red light programs, including the County's Program, were effective in reducing accidents but needed improvements in certain areas. These improvements are necessary to meet the legislative intent of photo red light programs and to enhance agencies' ability to withstand legal challenges. Specific actions recommended in the Audit that are applicable to the County's Program are indicated in bold below, along with a brief description of the recommended measures we will be taking to address them.

1. Conduct more rigorous oversight of vendor's operations by making periodic monitoring visits.

Public Works has not performed periodic visits to the vendor's site. We will incorporate language into contracts indicating that Public Works will conduct periodic oversight visits to the vendor and ensure that vendor operations are conducted in compliance with State law and in accordance with contract provisions.

2. Develop business rules for vendor contracts and the CHP agreement to ensure that only citations that have been reviewed and approved are issued.

We believe our contract and agreement provisions, while not presented as formal business rules, provide adequate control over the citation issuance process. However, we will formalize the existing business process rules with respect to the screening, review, processing, and issuance of citations to ensure that only those citations that have been reviewed are sent. These business rules will be included as an attachment to the vendor contract and CHP agreement.

3. Establish specific time periods for the destruction of confidential information relating to red light violations.

As part of the formalization of business rules, Public Works will incorporate into contracts and agreements a retention/destruction schedule for all dismissed, unenforced, and enforced citations generated by the Program.

4. **To respect the privacy of motorists whose photographs are taken by red light cameras, local governments should strengthen the language within their vendor contracts to include explicit wording to protect the confidentiality of photographs and information obtained from the Program.**

Public Works will incorporate language in future vendor contracts to explicitly address the authorized and unauthorized uses of confidential photographs and information obtained from the Program.

5. **To help maintain the integrity and accuracy of their systems, local governments should conduct periodic inspections of red light camera intersections and consider contracting with an independent engineering firm to conduct the more technical reviews of the camera settings and calibration of the system.**

Currently, Public Works performs routine inspections of all intersections within its purview, including all of the photo red light enforcement intersections. These inspections includes a review of the proper red, yellow, and green interval settings. Public Works will consider contracting with an independent engineering firm to review camera setting, calibration, and operability of the system.

6. **Perform periodic reconciliation of the number of authorized citations for enforcement versus those mailed out by the vendor.**

Our Program requires that CHP officers must first approve the citation before the vendor is authorized to mail it out. Although our Program was not cited in the audit for issuing unauthorized citations, we agree with the intent of this recommendation. We will incorporate the necessary language into the future vendor contract and CHP agreement. However, at this time, we do not possess adequate staffing to perform this formal reconciliation.

7. **To allow for better accountability over red light camera programs and to ensure that vendors are paid appropriately, local governments should better track their revenues and expenditures related to their programs.**

With regard to expenditures, this item has been addressed in the extended contract with ACS, which establishes a fixed monthly fee of \$69,000, instead of the previous fee schedule which incorporated a fixed monthly fee and a per-citation fee. As indicated in Item 6 above, Public Works will consider additional measures to reconcile revenues collected by the courts from red light running citations.

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We will keep you advised of our progress in resolving the audit issues. The State Auditor requires that we respond to their office at an interval of six months and one year from their request date (by January and July 2003). We will update your Board on this same schedule. If you have any questions, please call me or have your staff call my Deputy, Tom Alexander, at (626) 458-4012.

GS:rj

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cc: Supervisor Gloria Molina (Nicole Englund, Carrie Sutkin)
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